

# WSU Education Council

Thursday 25/04/2023 at 13:15 - EE 1120

Members in Attendance		Others in Attendance:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seb James (School Rep)</li> <li>Abie Dutton (School Rep)</li> <li>Jake Matthews (School Rep)</li> <li>Joshua Bowman (Academic Society Chair)</li> <li>Ellie Harris (School Rep)</li> <li>Tereza Vidrova (Academic Society Chair)</li> <li>Emma Parkes (Academic Society Chair)</li> <li>Tegen Jones (School Rep)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jack Appleby (Minuting Secretary)</li> <li>Antonia Rossiter-Eaglesfield (Chairs Aid)</li> </ul>	
	ITEM	Timings	Owner
1.	Welcome & Introductions	13:15	GA
2.	Apologies	13:16	GA
3.	Declaration of interest	13:17	GA
4.	Minutes of previous meeting	13:18	GA
5.	Matters arising	13:25	GA
Approval Items			
6.	Orange Button - Policy Proposal*	13:30	GA
Reporting Items			
7.	*Policies Update* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">2018-19 011: SU Against Fit to Sit (20/05/2025)</a></li> <li><a href="#">2019-20 004: Fit to Study (28/04/2023)</a></li> <li><a href="#">2018-19 012: Deadlines and Multiple Assessments (31/07/2025)</a></li> <li><a href="#">2021-22-006: Multiple Exams in one day (31/07/2025)</a></li> <li><a href="#">2021-22-007: University Grading and Postgraduate Application Support (31/07/2025)</a></li> <li><a href="#">2022-23-001: Module Withdrawal Procedure (31/03/2026)</a></li> <li><a href="#">2022-23-002: City Campus Development Board (31/03/2026)</a></li> <li><a href="#">2022-23-003: Mental Health (31/03/2026)</a></li> </ul>	13:40	JA
8.	VP Education Officer Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student Choice Awards</li> <li>NUS National Conference 2023</li> <li>Pizza with PVC</li> <li>School Rep Applications</li> <li>VPE-elect 2023-24</li> <li>Rep Celebration Event</li> <li>SU Strategy 2023-45 and beyond</li> </ul>	13:50	GA
Discussion Item			
9.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General Feedback</li> </ul>	14:10	GA
Any Other Business			
10.	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WSU - Charity of the Year</li> <li>WSU - Summer Ball</li> </ul>	14:25	GA
Date of Next Meeting: TBC			

## Minutes

### **1.0 Welcome & Introduction**

GA welcomed all members to the 4<sup>th</sup> and final Education Council of the year.

---

### **2.0 Apologies**

Apologies can be seen above.

---

### **3.0 Declaration of interest**

Joshua Bowman expressed a declaration of interest on the following policies:

- Orange Button Scheme

No other members declared any interest in today's given agenda.

---

### **4.0 Minutes of previous meeting**

GA walked the council through the previous minutes. The council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting and then took a vote to approve:

For - 9

Against - 0

Abstain - 3

The minutes from the Education Council on February 2<sup>nd</sup> , 2023, were approved.

---

### **5.0 Matters arising**

No matters arising.

---

### **6.0 Approval Items**

#### **6.1 Orange Button Scheme (Policy Proposal)\***

GA invited JB to speak on behalf of this resubmission policy.

Josh Bowman highlights of the policy were:

- To Mandate the Students' Union to lobby the University for there to be a Mental Health Policy

The orange button scheme policy proposal was then put to a vote for approval.

For - 6

Against - 7

Abstain - 1

The policy proposal 'Orange Button Scheme' was not approved by Education Council.

---

### **7.0 Policy Update**

[2018-19 011: SU Against Fit to Sit \(20/05/2025\)](#)

There are currently no new updates to give on this Policy as of yet.

[2019-20 004: Fit to Study \(28/04/2023\)](#)

There are currently no new updates to give on this Policy as of yet.

[2018-19 012: Deadlines and Multiple Assessments \(20/05/2024\)](#)

There are currently no new updates to give on this Policy as of yet.

---

---

---

[2021-22 006: Multiple Exams in one day \(31/07/2025\)](#)

There are currently no new updates to give on this Policy as of yet.

[2021-22-007: University Grading and Postgraduate Application Support \(31/07/2025\)](#)

The Union have been working to produce a guide to help students understand the changes to the degree classification. This guide includes how the grading works and where you can seek further support if needed.

[2022-23-001: Module Withdrawal Procedure \(31/03/2026\)](#)

There are currently no new updates to give on this Policy as of yet.

[2022-23-002: City Campus Development Board \(31/03/2026\)](#)

There are currently no new updates to give on this Policy as of yet.

[2022-23-003: Mental Health \(31/03/2026\)](#)

There are currently no new updates to give on this Policy as of yet.

---

## **8.0 Vice President Education Officer Update**

### Objective Updates


- Reward & Recognition
  - 3 Course Reps have achieved Bronze.
  - 1 School Rep have achieved Bronze.
    - There will be more achieved in the coming weeks. You can see how to be eligible via our website.
- Decolonising the Curriculum
  - This has now been successfully added to the course design framework.
  - Working group is being set up to ensure decolonisation is a key conversation.
    - GA is working to get the SU a seat on the working group.
- Rep conference
  - This has now successfully been completed.
  - Over 40 reps in total attended the event on the day.
  - 4 amazing hosts joined us for the event with, 2 external speakers from the HE sector sharing their knowledge and experiences.

### **New Objective - Self-Certification Mitigating Circumstances**

- The first step will be to conduct focus groups with students to understand the current experiences of mitigating circumstances.
  - Mixed feedback shows that its evidence based and unfortunately not all circumstances can be evidenced.
- The idea of the self-certification would allow a student to self-certificate in the academic year, with no evidence required.
  - This could allow for extensions of 7/10/14 days.
  - Self-certification would allow students to put mitigating circumstances for those unplanned circumstances such as funerals, translation on international documents and Drs Evidence.

No additional updates given.

---



## **9.0 General Feedback**

GA explained that this is an opportunity for all members to give any feedback on University life, with a particular reference to academia since the last Education Council. GA opened the floor to the councillors.

### **Purpose of School Reps (Joshua Bowman)**

This year JB felt that there had been a lack of support and impact by the School Rep roles within the Worcester Business School. JB questioned the effectiveness of School Reps and whether they were needed, could the funding that goes into School Reps be redistributed into other Union activities.

- GA: Gemma felt it was important to note that the funding awarded to School Reps is not Union money, it is money that the University have reserved to award School reps their bursaries.
- It's also important to note that each year we try our hardest as a Union to recruit effective School Reps. We sometimes have school reps who are more effective than others, we have also had school reps whose studies have taken over in Semester 2. We've always stood by the philosophy that our students' studies take precedence over any additional responsibilities they pick up.
- JA also noted that School Reps who don't meet the basic criteria at the end of the semester do not get awarded their bursary.

No additional feedback was given.

---

## **11.0 AOB**

### **WSU - Charity of the Year**

Gemma displayed a QR on the screen for councillors to nominate charities for the SU's chosen charity for the year. Gemma encouraged councillors to nominate a charity if they know any Worcestershire based charities.

### **Summer Ball**

Gemma noted that the upcoming Student's Union summer ball has been cancelled. Due to financial restraints and lack of interest/sold tickets to the event. The Union has made the decision to cancel the 2023 Summer Ball. All students who had bought a ticket previously will be contacted in due course and issues a refund.

---

Education Council was brought to a close.